



ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

The CEV Seat: Seeking a Custom Fit in an Off-the-Rack World

Developing the prototype of an astronaut seat for the Orion crew exploration vehicle (CEV)—the next lunar lander—was presenting unique, and daunting, design challenges. After two years of fits and starts, the project's Preliminary Design Review (PDR) was only months away, the industry partner's contract had expired—and the seat was still unbuilt. Over the 2007 winter holidays a NASA engineer took to his garage to try his hand at building this critical component of the spacecraft. The results were surprising, and we will discuss them with the help of a case study and the engineer around whom this story revolves.

Dustin M. Gohmert

Subsystem Manager, Orion spacecraft seats and crew survival equipment
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Dustin M. Gohmert is Subsystem Manager for the Orion spacecraft seats and crew survival equipment, Johnson Space Center (JSC), Houston. A native of Texas, Gohmert was born January 12, 1977, in the small town of Cuero in the southeastern part of the state. He earned an associate of science degree from Victoria College (Victoria, Texas) in 1998, then attended the University of Texas at San Antonio from 1998 to 2001, where he received his bachelor of science degree in engineering with a major in mechanical engineering. During this time, he also gained three years of experience at Southwest Research Institute. After graduation, he moved to Houston to work at United Space Alliance, LLC (USA), as a Shuttle Advanced Crew Escape Suit (ACES) engineer. Gohmert has been with NASA/JSC since 2004, and in 2008 he received NASA's Silver Snoopy Award for his work on the Orion seat project. In May 2008, he completed his master of science degree in engineering at the University of Texas.

Edward Rogers

Chief Knowledge Officer
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Dr. Edward Rogers is currently the Chief Knowledge Officer at Goddard Space Flight Center. He has run the Knowledge Management Office at GSFC since 2003, where he set the course for Goddard's learning initiatives through the "Goddard Plan for a Learning Organization."

Some of the knowledge sharing activities he initiated include the popular Road to Mission Success Course, the Pause and Learn process, and case studies. Part of Dr. Rogers' responsibility is to support Goddard projects through enhancing individual and team learning to improve mission success.

Dr. Rogers received a Ph.D. from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations focusing on the role of cooperation in high tech firms. In the early 1980s he



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performed five years of international relief work in Southern Lebanon. Prior to returning to academic work at Cornell, Dr. Rogers operated a private consulting business focused on knowledge workers and intelligent enterprise. His research work applies game theory models to human behavior in organizations. He has consulted with a number of organizations on building conceptual transparency and leveraging collective knowledge.

Before joining NASA he taught strategic management and entrepreneurship in the College of Administrative Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville where he was known for his practical application of business knowledge.